

**IDAHO STATE PLAN**  
**for**  
**TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES**  
**(TANF)**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**AND WORK OPPORTUNITY**  
**RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996 (P. L. 104-193)**

**Submitted**  
**December 30, 2005**  
**by**  
**Self Reliance Program**  
**Idaho Department of Health and Welfare**

**Effective November 1, 2005**

## Table of Contents

<b>A. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
1. Administration .....	3
2. Department Mission and Program Goals .....	3
3. Program Purposes and Use of Funds .....	4
4. TANF Eligibility Requirements.....	4
<b>B. TANF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.....</b>	<b>5</b>
1. Temporary Cash Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI).....	5
2. Immunization Registry .....	9
3. Head Start.....	10
4. Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center .....	10
5. Work-related Activities .....	11
6. Child Care Services for Non-TAFI families .....	12
7. Enhanced Work Services .....	12
8. Career Enhancement Services .....	13
9. Job Education and Training (JET) Program .....	13
10. Transitional Services .....	14
11. Supportive Services .....	14
12. Family and Community Services (FACS) Programs .....	14
13. Governor's Generation of the Child Initiative.....	16
14. Court Services.....	18
15. Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancy Prevention.....	18
16. Domestic Violence Screening and Identification .....	20
<b>C. TRIBAL TANF .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>D. COORDINATION OF SERVICES.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>E. FRAUD AND ABUSE .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>F. PLAN AMENDMENTS.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>G. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF STATE PLAN SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<i>Appendix A: Organizational Chart .....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Appendix B: State Plan Certifications .....</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Appendix C: Funding .....</i>	<i>27</i>

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is the federal program that replaced the Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) program under federal welfare reform legislation, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), P. L. 104-193. The program is supervised by the State of Idaho, through the Department of Health and Welfare (Department).

The TANF block grant is used to provide cash assistance, services and work programs for needy families, utilizing federal TANF funds along with state funds to develop and deliver services to needy families. Idaho operates its TANF program in accordance with this Plan; Idaho Statute Title 56, Public Assistance and Welfare, Chapter 2, Public Assistance; and Idaho Administrative Rules. The State of Idaho (the State) will amend its TANF State Plan whenever the Department determines there is a significant change in program policy or rule.

In the event of changes to Idaho's TANF program, the rules are published in the Administrative Rules Bulletin with legal notices regarding the changes published in Idaho's major daily newspapers. The public has 12 days to comment on rule changes.

This document, Idaho's TANF State Plan, was posted on the Department's web site October 19, 2005 at <http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov>. Notice of this posting and the opportunity to comment (October 19 – December 5, 2005) were published in Idaho's major daily newspapers October 19 – 21, 2005. This provided the mandatory 45-day period for public review and comment.

### **1. Administration**

Idaho employs a service area structure working in concert with a centralized business office to ensure effective delivery of the program. Appendix 1 is a chart of the Department's structure. Service delivery is provided at the local level by Department employees and contracted staff.

### **2. Department Mission and Program Goals**

The Department's mission is to create and support an environment that encourages family responsibility and self-reliance while promoting and protecting the health and safety of Idahoans. The overriding goal of Idaho's TANF program is to help Idaho's needy families achieve self sufficiency by providing them access to job preparation, work and support services.

### **3. Program Purposes and Use of Funds**

Idaho uses TANF funds to accomplish the purposes established by P.L. 104-193 (42 U.S.C. 601(a)(1)):

- Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
- End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
- Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

The State will adhere to the 15% administrative cost limitation as specified in 42 U.S.C. 604(b). The State will account for TANF administrative costs using the final rule for TANF (45 CFR Part 263).

### **4. TANF Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Financial Eligibility**

Unless otherwise noted, the income limit for TANF eligibility is 150% of the federal poverty guideline and the resources limit is \$2000.

#### **Citizenship**

Applicants must provide documentation that they are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States. Acceptable documentation includes birth certificate, passport, or documentation from the US Department of Homeland Security. Exceptions are explained below.

#### **Non-Citizens**

All qualified aliens who reside in the United States have access to cash assistance if they are eligible, unless otherwise limited by Federal Law. TANF assistance is provided to all excepted categories as required by Title IV of PRWORA and to all non-excepted categories after the expiration of the 5-year bar. Idaho does not provide a State-funded assistance program for individuals who are barred for their first five years. The five-year bar does not apply to aliens who entered the United States before August 22, 1996.

#### **Trafficking Victims**

Pursuant to Public Law 106-386 and the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, victims of a severe form of trafficking shall be eligible for benefits. This eligibility is without regard to actual immigration status of such victims. Victims of trafficking, like refugees, are not barred from receiving TANF during their first five years.

#### **Idaho State Residence**

Applicants must present documentation to prove they are residents of the State of Idaho.

## **B. TANF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

Idaho's TANF funds provide cash assistance to needy families through Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI). TANF funds also support an array of other programs and services to eligible families and individuals who meet the eligibility criteria established by the four TANF purposes and rules of the Department of Health and Welfare in accordance with this State Plan.

### **1. Temporary Cash Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI)**

Idaho provides TAFI cash payments to needy families with children, including two-parent households. Idaho families with a dependent child, or a pregnant woman in the third trimester of pregnancy, meet the definition of "needy" if their countable household earned income (60% of earned income) is below 32% of the 2000 federal poverty level for the budget unit size. A family is considered "needy" when their countable monthly income (earned and unearned) is less than \$309, the maximum grant amount. The family resource limit for TAFI is \$2,000. TAFI applicants must comply with all program requirements in order to receive benefits.

Each individual applying for cash assistance under TAFI must state in writing whether the individual or any member of their household has been convicted of a felony involving a controlled substance. However, Idaho has exercised the opt-out provision in section 115 of PRWORA, P.L. 104-193. Accordingly, the Department may provide food stamps and services funded under Title IV-A (including cash assistance, TANF supportive services and at-risk services) to a person who has been convicted of a felony involving a controlled substance, if they comply with the terms of a withheld judgment, probation or parole.

#### **Benefit Delivery**

Delivery of cash benefits is made through electronic funds transfers (EFT), either directly to a recipient's bank account or to an account maintained by the State on behalf of the recipient through an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) vendor. The EBT system is an on-line system accessed with plastic magnetic strip cards and personal identification numbers (PIN). Benefits are accessible through point of sale (POS) devices at participating retailers or at automated teller machines (ATMs). The EBT system is operable anywhere in the United States where the retailer or ATM displays the Quest logo. The Quest logo signifies that the retailer or ATM owner follows the national operating rules for EBT adopted by the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA).

#### **Child-only TAFI Grants**

TAFI is available to eligible children who reside with a caretaker relative. A caretaker relative is an adult specified relative other than a parent who has an eligible related child residing with them and who is responsible for the child's care.

Caretaker relatives may choose whether to be included in the grant. For child-only cases:

- Only the child's income is counted;
- TAFI time limits do not apply to relative caretakers;
- A non-parent caretaker relative not included in the grant does not have TAFI work activity requirements, since he is not a family member;
- Caretaker relatives not included in the grant are encouraged to complete all the Child Support Services (CSS) referral forms, but are not required to cooperate with CSS. However, a caretaker relative who is included in the grant must cooperate with child support services to identify and locate the non-custodial parent, establish paternity, and establish, modify and enforce the child support order, unless good cause exists.
- Caretaker relatives not included in the grant are not required to participate in work activities. However, all caretaker relatives included in the TAFI grant must meet participation requirements for work activities.

### **Participation in Work Activities**

Idaho uses contractors for the development and management of work opportunity sites and the provision of Enhanced Work Services. Services essential to a participant entry into employment are provided on an individualized basis. Contractors collaborate with other community resources to avoid duplication of services.

All TAFI applicants are referred to Idaho's Enhanced Work Services contractors for participation in mandatory work activities. Activities depend upon the applicant/participant's circumstances, and require up to 40 hours per week in work-related activities, as described in the Work Related Activities section on page eleven.

### **One-time TAFI Cash Payment**

Idaho offers one-time cash payment as an alternative TAFI payment method. A one-time TAFI cash payment can be received only once in a lifetime. To be eligible for a one-time cash payment, families must meet general eligibility requirements. The family must have a need that cannot be met with existing resources. The one-time cash payment may be up to three times the maximum TAFI grant the family would have been eligible to receive. Each month used by the one-time payment counts as two months against the 24-month lifetime TAFI limit.

Eligibility for one-time cash payments is based on needs such as car repair, moving expenses, employment agency fee, tools, uniforms, and housing expenses. A family already receiving TAFI can apply for a one-time cash payment to use for employment related expenses, such as relocation and moving expenses, tools, and union dues to accept or retain employment.

### **Time Limit**

TAFI is designed to provide temporary cash assistance while fostering personal and family responsibility, work, and self-reliance. Monthly cash benefits are provided to eligible families up to a lifetime limit of 24 months. Eligible families moving to Idaho from another state are entitled to TAFI cash benefits up to the 24-month time limit. Cash assistance benefits received from another state after July 1, 1997, count against Idaho's 24-month lifetime limit.

Cash assistance provided for child-only cases, with no adult included in the grant, is not time-limited.

### **Extended Cash Assistance**

Extended Cash Assistance (ECA) may be provided to families who have received twenty four (24) months of assistance. All TAFI eligibility criteria apply to ECA. In addition to all the eligibility requirements for TAFI, all adults in the family must meet one (1) of the following conditions:

- a mental or physical condition expected to last at least three months. The condition must prevent any employment that would generate earnings of at least one hundred sixty-seven percent (167%) of the maximum grant per month.
- care of an ill or incapacitated child or spouse in the home. The in-home care must be provided for a minimum of one month. The care must prevent any employment that would generate earnings of at least one hundred sixty-seven percent (167%) of the maximum grant per month.

Time Limit: ECA may be paid for an additional 36 months after the 24 month temporary cash assistance time limit, but all adults in the family must continue to meet both ECA and temporary cash assistance eligibility criteria.

### **Personal Responsibility Contract**

Families who apply for and receive TAFI work with the Department to develop a Personal Responsibility Contract (PRC). This negotiated contract clearly outlines the steps the family intends to take to achieve self-reliance, identifies the expectations a family must meet to continue receiving TAFI, and identifies the resources available through the Department to support the participant's self-reliance plan.

Idaho's program requires all adult members of the family to participate in work activities up to 40 hours per week. As part of the PRC, both initial and continued cooperation with Child Support Services is mandated.

The PRC also identifies the steps the Department must take. The Department will ensure that basic services are adequate to help the family fulfill the terms of the PRC. Food Stamps, Medicaid, and other resources available in the community are discussed with the family. Families have the opportunity to apply for these services during this initial contact or whenever needed.

During initial contact with the Department, families are encouraged to identify and use their own personal resources or resources within the community. Department personnel assist families as needed, emphasizing steps the family can use to access alternative resources.

### **Drug and Alcohol Screening**

Adult TAFI applicants are screened for alcohol and substance abuse in compliance with Idaho law. The screening occurs as part of TAFI eligibility determination. Substance abuse directly impairs an individual's ability to secure and retain a job. Identifying this particular barrier early assists families with treatment and reduces long-term welfare dependency.

### **Unmarried Minor Parents**

Unmarried minor parents must reside with the parents of either individual in order to receive TAFI, unless they have good cause to live separately.

### **Privacy Protection**

In compliance with the Health Information Privacy and Portability Act, the Department has taken necessary steps to restrict the use and disclosure of information about individuals and families receiving assistance under programs funded by the federal government. The Department may share information about participants with county welfare programs to avoid inaccurate provision of benefits.

### **Fair Hearings**

A family may request a fair hearing to contest a Department decision up to thirty days after the date a notice was mailed to them. The family may continue to receive assistance during the hearing process if the Department receives the request for continued benefits within ten (10) days from the date the notice was mailed. Assistance will continue at the current month's level while the hearing decision is pending, unless the twenty-four month limit is reached or another change affecting the family's eligibility occurs.

### **TAFI Cash Assistance for Victims of Catastrophe**

In the event of an officially declared catastrophe, the State employs the "prudent person" concept to assist victims of the catastrophe.

### **Services and Activities Available to Participants Receiving TAFI**

The Department uses the full range of activities allowed in the federal law (Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996) to reinforce personal and family responsibility and further the family's self-reliance goals. Each family's PRC identifies and requires participation in activities that meet the standards of participation defined in the law.

Additional activities not defined in federal law, such as classes and programs in parenting, budgeting, decision-making, problem solving, conflict resolution, health, and hygiene, are identified and added to the family's PRC. Examples of additional services and resources are listed below:

- **Community Service.** Community service activities may be included in the PRC. Community service is not mandated in deference to other activities that may better prepare a family to become stable.
- **Employment Services.** The Department works with communities to identify employment opportunities for TAFI participants. The Department develops unpaid opportunities for work experience sites. These sites teach basic job skills to provide participants with current employment references and the basic skills needed to obtain employment. Participants are encouraged to be involved in other community activities to expand employment options.



- **Transportation Services.** Transportation and other supportive services are available to those who could not otherwise participate in the activities identified on the PRC.
- **Child Care Services.** TAFI families are eligible for the Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) if child care is needed for a parent or caretaker relative to participate in Personal Responsibility Contract activities. When a parent becomes employed and terminates TAFI, the family may continue to receive child care as a Work-related Service if they meet ICCP eligibility requirements.

### **Child Support Services**

Cooperation with Child Support Services is a requirement of TAFI eligibility unless good cause exists. Cooperation with Child Support is critical because it supports and encourages parental responsibility through the activities of child support collection. The process of cooperation is discussed with each TAFI applicant.

A TAFI applicant must cooperate in identifying the non-custodial parent, locating that parent, and establishing a support order as a condition of receiving TAFI. If paternity is not established, the applicant must cooperate with identifying and locating the father. Once TAFI eligibility is established, the participant must continue to cooperate with child support requirements.

Idaho's TAFI and Child Support services are linked into the Department's overall Self-Reliance program. An applicant is screened to assess whether child support is being paid and, if not, the reasons for non-payment. Child support screening is necessary for the Department to ascertain which services are most appropriate to meet the family's needs. Child Support services are key to participants achieving self-reliance.

The processes to gather information, identify, locate, and enforce support orders begin at the time of application for assistance. Upon completion of the assessment, enforcement action takes place. This is accomplished through an interface between the eligibility system (EPICS) and the child support enforcement system (ICSES).

## **2. Immunization Registry**

The Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS) was created in 1999 at the request of Governor Dirk Kempthorne to track immunization data and help raise immunization rates in Idaho. IRIS is funded by federal TANF monies, and is managed by the Department's Division of Health.

Since the establishment of the registry, Idaho's immunization rates have increased from 65% to 80.6%. More than 1,000 Idaho health care providers, schools and child care facilities regularly access the registry to confirm, update and forecast patients' immunization status.

In addition, Idaho has recently developed a cooperative relationship with other states, specifically Washington and Louisiana, to increase the transfer of immunization information to providers who care for residents of bordering states or during a disaster situation. This function is available to all enrolled sites needing access to this information. Exchanges with other border states are currently in progress.

The cooperative interstate relationship will benefit parents on Medicaid, TAFI or WIC because these agencies can request immunization records for participants who are in the state or have just entered the state, minimizing the time it takes to provide assistance to needy families. Most Idaho Department of Health and Welfare assistance programs request immunization records during the application process; access to IRIS increases the efficiency of providing assistance to families in need.

Ninety percent (90%) of Idaho parents consent to their children being entered into the Immunization Registry each year and rely on the system to provide their child care facilities and schools with up-to-date and accurate information regarding their children's immunization status. IRIS contributes to the employment security of many of these parents by providing care providers and schools on-line access to immunization records required for child care and school attendance. Parents are able to remain at work rather than taking time off to personally deliver immunization documentation.

### **3. Head Start**

The Head Start Program provides child development services to children. The target population is families who are TAFI eligible or at risk of becoming eligible, and whose income does not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. The program includes a developmentally appropriate individualized curriculum, socialization and health screening, as well as immunizations and medical, dental, nutrition, and mental health services.

The goals for the Idaho Head Start Association for the next three years are to obtain state general funds for expansion of the program -- current federal and segregated TANF funding allow it to serve only about 23% of the children who are eligible and to collaborate with other programs serving pre-school children to improve coordination and direction from the state level.

### **4. Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center**

The Department's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Division of Health, manages the Poison Control and Prevention contract with Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center (Rocky Mountain) in Denver, CO. Funded 100% by TANF funds, Rocky Mountain provides 24-hour-per-day access to telephone consultation and treatment recommendations for poisonings in Idaho. Sixty percent (60%) of calls concern children under the age of 12; the caller is usually a parent or caregiver calling from home.

The Poison Control Center assesses the poisoning victim through the caller and provides instructions for treatment at home, if possible, potentially avoiding an unnecessary visit to a clinic, doctor, or hospital that might otherwise occur.

All poison calls and reports are sent to the EMS Communications Center. The Communication Center forwards the reports to the appropriate health district, which then contacts the original caller at home to follow up on the status of the patient.

## 5. Work-related Activities

The definition of “needy” is applicable to TANF-eligible families with a dependent child residing in their home. The State delivers consistent work-related activities state-wide. Participants in Work-related Activities must complete and fulfill a PRC.

Adults are expected to participate immediately in work-related activities, including job search. A single custodial parent caring for a child twelve (12) weeks of age or less during a month will not be required to engage in work activities as defined in PRWORA 407(d); however, a single custodial parent is expected to complete a PRC that defines activities that will help them become self-sufficient.

Families are expected to accept employment as soon as it is available to them. A working family that continues to be eligible for TAFI will receive continued support from the Department to improve their self-reliance capabilities. Families who gain employment will be given needed assistance to learn how to use community resources after they leave the program.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK-RELATED ACTIVITIES	
Unsubsidized Employment	Individual receiving wages from public, private, or self-employment
Subsidized Private Sector Employment	Individual in private sector employment receiving subsidized wages from another program for training provided by Dept. of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation, etc.
Subsidized Public Sector Employment	Individual in public sector employment receiving subsidized wages from another program for training provided by Dept. of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation, etc.
Work Opportunities	Individual in unpaid short-term pre-employment work experience (workfare) based on a signed Memorandum of Agreement between the Department and the work site. Also includes an individual placed in work experience (not community service) by another agency's program, such as vocational rehabilitation or probation and parole.
Community Service	Individual who performs volunteer work for community organizations or have been assigned Community Service by a court.
Work Finding Activities	Individual who is involved in active job search or participating in work preparation activities (job readiness). These activities may include job readiness assessment, classes, workshops, or one-on-one training on resume writing, how to interview, how to keep a job, budgeting, setting up a business, etc.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK-RELATED ACTIVITIES	
Education	Individual under age 20 who is attending secondary school, alternative school, adult basic education (math and reading skills training), GED preparation courses, or English as a second language classes.
Employment Preparation Education	Individual under age 20 who does not have a high school diploma or GED who is attending job skills training such as clerical or mechanic training. Does not include work finding activities such as resume classes, how to interview, etc.
Vocational Training	Individual under the age of 20 who has a high school diploma or GED, or an individual age 20 or older, who is in occupational or skills training of twelve months or less. Academic training may be counted if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The training will lead directly to employment such as teaching, nursing, etc., AND</li> <li>• The individual is participating in other activities including employment.</li> <li>• Individuals age 20 or older attending Adult Basic Education, GED preparation courses or English as a second language classes.</li> <li>• Does not include work finding activities such as resume classes, how to interview, etc.</li> </ul>
Other Activities	Individual involved in activities designed to improve the ability to obtain and maintain employment, which may include life skills training, non-work related assessment, following doctors instructions, using community resources such as diabetes centers, alcohol and drug rehabilitation, physical therapy, etc.

## 6. Child Care Services for Non-TAFI families

Working Idaho families with a dependent child are eligible for child care services when they meet current ICCP eligibility guidelines. Child Care Services expenses for Non-TAFI families may be paid by direct TANF funds for working families who qualify for ICCP. Payment for Child Care Services is made directly to the providers.

## 7. Enhanced Work Services

Enhanced Work Services (EWS) serves individuals who are unable to meet the basic needs of their family or the children they support. For the purposes of EWS, the term “needy” includes families whose income is no greater than 200% of FPG, non-custodial parents whose income is no greater than 400% of FPG, and families who are eligible for Food Stamps, Medicaid, and ICCP. The services are funded by TANF and State MOE funds. EWS is a comprehensive set of services that assist participants in finding employment, maintaining employment or improving their employment situation. EWS

contractors provide individualized services essential to a participant's entry into employment. Activities depend upon the applicant's (circumstances, and require up to 40 hours per week in work-related activities, described under Work Related Activities on page 11. Additionally, some adults may be served who are at risk of losing their ability to support their family or children they support. EWS helps end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation and work.

## **8. Career Enhancement Services**

Career Enhancement Services (CE) are supportive services, funded by federal and state TANF funds, designed for eligible individuals who have a work-related need that if unmet would prevent them from maintaining or obtaining employment. By meeting these needs, Career Enhancement Services help to ensure that children continue to be cared for in their own or relatives' homes and help to end dependence of needy parents on the government by promoting job preparation and work. These supportive services payments are limited to a period of time not to exceed four (4) months and can only occur once every twelve (12) months if the participant is not employed and has not received CE within the past twelve (12) months. However, *employed* participants may utilize CE supportive services for each different episode of need and are not restricted to once in twelve months.

Supportive services are not intended to meet recurrent, ongoing needs, but are designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need. The expectation at the time supportive services are granted is that the situation will not occur again and such benefits are not to be provided on a regular basis.

In order to be eligible for Career Enhancement Services, an individual:

- must not have failed, without good cause, to comply with a previous Career Enhancement Service Plan;
- must be a parent or caretaker relative with a dependant child in the home, a pregnant woman in her third trimester of pregnancy, or a non-custodial parent legally responsible to provide support for a dependent child who does not reside in the same home;
- must be eligible for Food Stamps, Medicaid or ICCP, or family's income must be below 200% of the FPG; if a non-custodial parent, income must be below 400% of the FPG, or his or her family must be eligible for Food Stamps or Medicaid.

## **9. Job Education and Training (JET) Program**

JET is one piece of a comprehensive set of services designed to help participants find a job, keep a job, or improve their employment situation. The program is funded by TANF and State MOE monies. Participants in the JET program may be referred by the Department's Enhanced Work Services (EWS) contractor, or may serve as volunteers. Participant's income must not exceed 200% of the 1998 federal poverty guidelines. All participants must meet TANF eligibility criteria.

JET acts as a bridge, assisting participants who show ability, interest and a specific employment-related goal where post-basic education may be needed, or can be used, to gain job skills from short-term training. The training can be technical or academic, and must lead to a certificate or other proof of course completion. Training received

through JET will not exceed a 12-month period to completion. Examples of job skill training include Certified Nursing Assistant, Commercial Driver's Licenses, flagger school, Excel certificate, etc.

## **10. Transitional Services**

Transitional Services may be provided to an individual whose family is no longer eligible for TAFI cash assistance due to employment or who requested TAFI closure because of employment. At the time of closure the family's income must be below 200% of FPG. The family must have received TAFI for at least one partial month or one full month within the past 12 months, and have a need for work-related services in order to maintain employment. Transitional Services may be provided for up to twelve months after TAFI ends due to employment and do not count toward the TAFI 24-month time limit. Services are supported by federal TANF funds.

## **11. Supportive Services**

Supportive Services, paid directly to vendors, include work-related expenses such as transportation costs, clothing, necessary tools and equipment, licensure and certification fees.

Expenditures for Supportive Services may not be paid for child care, medical services, purchase of vehicles, housing and utility costs, services for children, credit card accounts, household items, fines, professional union or trade dues, or any services available through another resource, as these expenses do not fall under the Supportive Services category. Child Care Services are available through the Idaho Child Care Program, and are funded either through CCDF or direct TANF funds.

Supportive Services are supported by TANF and State MOE funds, and may be provided to adult participants who receive:

- TAFI Cash Assistance – supportive services must be needed to support an element of the Personal Responsibility Contract (PRC);
- Extended Cash Assistance
- Transitional Services – supportive services must be directly related to maintaining employment and may include mentoring, counseling, and training for up to twelve months.
- Career Enhancement Services – supportive services help individuals maintain or obtain employment. Career Enhancement supportive services must not extend beyond four (4) months per episode of need, and the individual may only receive one (1) Career Enhancement payment in a twelve (12) month period.

## **12. Family and Community Services (FACS) Programs**

These FACS programs, depending on their funding, meet an appropriate TANF purpose or satisfy the specifications of Federal Code 45 CFR 263.11, which provides a grandfather clause to allow the State to spend TANF funds in accordance with the State Plan that was authorized prior to 1995.

## **Emergency Assistance**

Emergency Assistance is designed to assist families with an eligible child or youth who are experiencing specific emergency conditions. A family may be eligible for Emergency Assistance if their income is at or below 200% of the current federal poverty guideline or they are unable to meet the emergency condition because of circumstances beyond their control. Funded through federal TANF funds, Emergency Assistance benefits are non-recurrent, short-term payments for goods and services relating to specific emergency conditions.

A family has an emergency condition when:

- A child (less than 18 years) is in immediate danger of a life-threatening or emergency situation;
- A child is suspected of being physically or sexually abused or when a serious physical or medical neglect has been reported; or
- A child or youth (age 18 - 20, inclusive) is in a vulnerable situation because of lack of paternal care or insufficient resources immediately available to meet his basic needs, and the unmet needs may be a threat to the child's health, safety, stability, or well-being.

Payment is limited to the least amount necessary to get the family through the emergency and is always paid directly to a third party, such as the utility company. The family may receive emergency assistance for up to 120 consecutive days in a twelve-month period from the date of application.

Payments are linked to service plans developed by the family to ensure the safety and well-being of children and youth and the stability of the family. Provision of these payments is tracked in the same automated information system that supports child protection services. Emergency Assistance payments, partnered with the family's service plan, helps participating needy families maintain stability so that their children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives. Families are ineligible if the presenting emergency is a direct result of the family's failure to cooperate with any TAFI requirements.

## **Foster Care and Adoption**

The Department operates foster care and adoption programs to ensure family preservation and assist families in crisis. Through services focused on child safety and well-being, provision of emergency shelter care, family reunification, and support for adoptive families, the Foster Care and Adoption encourages the formation and maintenance of two-parent families. The Foster Care and Adoption program satisfies the specifications of Federal Code 45 CFR 263.11, which provides a grandfather clause to allow the State to spend TANF funds in accordance with the State Plan that was authorized prior to 1995.

## **Community Resources for Families Program**

The Community Resources for Families Program (CRFF) is a collaborative, school-based child welfare program between the Department and some school districts throughout Idaho. As an early intervention program, CRFF addresses emergency

conditions that threaten to disrupt families and negatively impact children; CRFF serves families with children in grades K through six. By concentrating on increasing school readiness, strengthening families to prevent child abuse and neglect, and increasing family self-reliance through optimal use of community resources, CRFF encourages the formation and maintenance of two-parent families. CRFF is funded by segregated federal TANF monies.

### **Hispanic Family-Centered Services**

In the region with the state's greatest concentration of Hispanic families, the Department employs client service technicians in each field office to bridge gaps in services and transportation. These technicians, hired from within the local Hispanic community, work with the full spectrum of Department clients. However, they are unique in providing interpreter services, assisting Spanish-speaking clients and foster parents to understand the child welfare system and effecting community outreach. Additional benefits include positive community relations and heightened cultural awareness of diverse populations among Department staff. Funded by segregated federal TANF monies, this program facilitates access to social services by families in crisis, thereby encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

### **Child Welfare Education and Training**

Related to the above child welfare programs and services are the Department's contracts for training and evaluation with five university social work programs and two community colleges. These educational institutions provide specialized child welfare education, in-service training for child welfare staff, pre-service training for foster parents and evaluation of this child welfare training for the Children and Family Services Program.

The benefits of these services include a professional Child Welfare Academy for new employees, standardized curriculum for both child welfare staff and foster/kinship care applicant families, and, as a result, improved recruitment and retention of social workers and foster parents.

Supported by segregated federal TANF funds, the program's training of child-welfare staff is designed to equip social workers with the skills needed to avert or mediate family crisis, thereby encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

## **13. Governor's Generation of the Child Initiative**

Governor Kempthorne's Generation of the Child (GOC) Initiative was introduced in the Governor's inaugural speech in 1999, setting forth his vision to provide the highest quality of life for all of Idaho's citizens through all the generations of their life. The GOC assists families and children to ensure self-sufficiency and a healthy outlook for Idaho's future. The purpose of the GOC is to strengthen families and children through a variety of projects and contracts:

- The Governor's Coordinating Council for Families and Children (GCCFC) was established by Executive Order in 1999 to promote the well-being of families and children, provide leadership and collaboration between the public and private sector; build awareness of the importance of strong families and children to the



overall economic strength of the State; increase support for children and families by individuals, communities, business, and government. The Council has broad representations from many occupations in the business, non-profit, and public sectors and has geographic representation from across the State. The GCCFC distributes to more than 1800 subscribers a bi-weekly electronic newsletter that includes resources and topics related to supporting and building strong families and children.

- The Early Care & Learning Initiative, begun as a taskforce in 2002, was successful in receiving a two-year planning grant and then a three-year implementation grant to focus on early care and learning across the state. "Idaho's Plan: Build the Future for Early Care & Learning" will pull together all facets of early childhood services to ensure systems are responsive to the needs of young children and their families. The plan is based on a comprehensive look at existing strengths and gaps specific to focus areas, shared goals, and guiding principles. Plan goals and indicators will drive Idaho to a results-based decision making process for long-term impact.
- Parents as Teachers is a program for early childhood parent education that serves families throughout pregnancy until their child enters kindergarten. The program was introduced in Idaho in 1998, and family participation is voluntary. In Idaho we have directed resources to at-risk children and families. Parents as Teachers (PAT) believes a child's first and most influential teacher is the parent. PAT provides the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life. PAT develops curricula, trains early childhood professionals, and certifies parent educators to work with parents to provide them with parenting support and information on their developing child. PAT is designed to enhance child development and school achievement through parent education.
- The GOC has been involved in a variety of programs in the areas of substance abuse prevention, including projects focused on underage drinking.
- The GOC has supported the GCCFC taskforce on mental health and funded Red Flags suicide prevention training in schools, and communities. The goal is to help inform teachers, counselors, parents, youth and community leaders of the high risk of suicide and how to identify the signs of a child in need. The GOC led a taskforce (SPAN) to develop the Idaho Suicide Prevention Plan and has supported conferences on children's mental health issues. The GOC provided support to develop a respite care plan and a network of respite care providers.
- Community Collaboration Contracts (CCC) are awarded to community organizations through an annual competitive application process. Funding is awarded to projects demonstrating collaboration with a minimum of 3 non-profit, private, or public sector organizations working on a community project that will serve families and children. During the past two years, the CCC's have impacted 116,000 citizens. Idaho is a very rural state, but we are pleased that there are CCC projects in all 44 counties of the state.
- The Governor's Roundtable Conferences provide annual training and capacity building. Roundtables have been held six years, three of which have been in Boise. Roundtables of the remaining three years have been hosted in seven regional locations around the state to ensure local participation.

- The Governor's Coordinating Council [www.gccfc.idaho.gov](http://www.gccfc.idaho.gov) and Generation of the Child Initiative [www.generationofthechild.idaho.gov](http://www.generationofthechild.idaho.gov) have developed websites to communicate with constituents. The websites have a statewide calendar for events and training opportunities. Organizations that provide training for capacity building for individuals serving family and children can place events on the calendar.

## **14. Court Services**

The Department collaborates with the Idaho Supreme Court to improve court services for families with children to strengthen and protect families and to care for and improve the safety, health, and well-being of children in their own home. Services include parenting evaluations, screening, parent education, supervised visitation, and mediation services.

## **15. Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancy Prevention**

Of the 21,794 live births in the State of Idaho in FY 2003, 4,859 were out of wedlock. Of these, 2,095 were born to mothers under the age of 20. Of more concern than the volume is the fact that some of these children do not have paternity acknowledged on the birth certificate. Many children born in Idaho each year may not have information that enables them to know their family medical history or have a connection with their father that assists with their emotional and financial stability. This paternity rate problem is not unique to Idaho, but is a national problem specifically addressed in the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

The Idaho Governor's Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (IGCAPP) was developed under Executive Order in 1995 and continues under the current administration. Our mission is to delay the onset of sexual activity by increasing the number of teens who choose abstinence. IGCAPP focuses primarily on 10 – 14 year olds and their parents/caregivers and has council members located strategically throughout the state who offer specific support to their regions.

This Council is funded by TANF monies and has contributed to Idaho's ongoing decline of teen pregnancies. The goals of the 19-member Council include:

- Developing and implementing a statewide campaign focused on delaying sexual activity by adolescents;
- Assessing the impact of the campaign on reducing the rate of adolescent pregnancies and increasing parent/child communication;
- Providing educational resources to the public-at-large via the Council's website ([www.idahoteenpregnancy.com](http://www.idahoteenpregnancy.com)), conferences, presentations and partnering with youth organizations that link associated risk behaviors;
- Providing funding at the local level via mini-grants to provide educational opportunities and sustainability to individual communities throughout the state.
- Expanding the scope of Idaho's teenage pregnancy prevention program to include men by providing education and training on the problem of statutory rape to State and local law enforcement officials, the education system, and relevant counseling services.

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy conducted a congressional analysis at the state level to determine the direct association between teen births and poverty. The study details what would have happened to state-level poverty rates and the living arrangements of children if teen birth rates remained constant during the 1991-2002 interval.

Between 1991 and 2002, the teen birth rate for girls aged 15-19 declined 27 percent in Idaho. If the teen birth rate in Idaho had not declined 27 percent between 1991 and 2002, there would have been nearly 6,100 additional children born to teen mothers during that time period. In 2002, there would have been over 1,200 more children under age six in poverty and over 1,200 additional children under age six living with a single mother.

Years of research have closely linked teen pregnancy and early childbearing to a host of other critical social issues, including overall child health and well-being, out-of-wedlock births, educational attainment and workforce readiness, responsible fatherhood, and poverty in particular – especially child poverty. For example, young children born to a mother who is a teenager, is not married, and did not finish high school are nine times more likely to be poor than children born to mothers without these three risk factors. Adolescent pregnancy and childbearing cost taxpayers at least \$7 billion annually and place a serious economic burden on schools and on health, welfare and social service systems.

The Idaho Governor's Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention has made a significant contribution to the state's overall decline in teen pregnancies and is working diligently to continue that decline. We believe the money spent is minor compared to the money saved based on this data.

Idaho's teenage pregnancy rates have steadily declined from 22.3% in 2003. The Program anticipates continued success over the next three years. Projected out-of-wedlock birth rates for this plan's program years are:

2006 – 19.0

2007 – 18.5

2008 – 18.0

The rate equals number of pregnancies per 1,000 females in the age group 15 – 17 year olds. Pregnancies include live births, induced abortions, and reportable stillbirths. We use this age group because Idaho has several intended births at ages 18 and 19 within wedlock.

The Idaho Governor's 19-member Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention includes representatives from the educational and law enforcement systems, as well as community and child welfare advocates. Through The Adolescent and Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program, the State will provide education and training on the problem of statutory rape to state and local law enforcement officials, the state's education system, and to relevant counseling services. In this way, the scope of Idaho's teenage pregnancy prevention program will be expanded to include men.

For example, IGCAPP works in cooperation with the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program which is funded under Title V, Section 510. The partnership assists with the Peers Encouraging Abstinent Kids (PEAK) Program to train high school mentors to provide a life skills curriculum to 6th, 7th and 8th graders in health classes throughout the state. The PEAK Program will be evaluated by Boise State University during the FY 2006 program implementation for effectiveness and future direction. PEAK is a model program that has shown positive impact through rigorous evaluations in Idaho's Panhandle region since 1996. PEAK began statewide services in FY 2005, and will be delivered into 39 school districts during the 2005-2006 school year.

## **16. Domestic Violence Screening and Identification**

For purposes of this paragraph the term "domestic violence" has the same meaning as the term "battered or subjected to extreme cruelty", as defined in section 408(a)(7)(c)(iii) of the Act.

The Department has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to screen and identify TANF participants with a history of domestic violence while protecting their privacy. Services include referral of such individuals to counseling and supportive services. The Department disregards, pursuant to good cause, certain program requirements, such as:

- time limits (for so long as necessary) for individuals receiving assistance;
- residency requirements; and
- family cap provisions

where compliance with such requirements would make it more difficult for individuals receiving assistance to escape domestic violence or would unfairly penalize such individuals who are or have been victimized by such violence, or are at risk of further domestic violence.

The Department will identify and provide additional, targeted support to victims of domestic violence who may have particular difficulty successfully making the transition from welfare to work.

Training is provided to Department staff to help them understand the issues surrounding domestic violence. Community resources, including agencies whose mission is working with domestic violence victims, have been identified. Activities required on the PRC are structured to accommodate the specific situation of a participant.

Although the Department expects that participants immediately focus on employment, the PRC will be appropriate to the participant's situation. Assessment of each situation is based on the participant's capabilities and strengths. Department staff employ a "reasonable person" standard when evaluating appropriateness of activities.

## **C. TRIBAL TANF**

The Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock, and Coeur d'Alene tribes are currently operating their own programs.

Idaho provides equitable access to assistance through the state program for each member of an Indian tribe living in the state and not eligible for assistance through a tribal family assistance plan. Department staff attend quarterly meetings with the tribes to discuss TANF issues. A federal liaison also attends these meetings.

In accordance with 42 U.S.C. 608 (a)(7)(d)(i) and (ii), the State will disregard any month during which an adult TANF participant lived in Indian country if the most reliable data available with respect to the month or period including the month indicate that at least 50 percent of the adults living in Indian country were not employed.

## **D. COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

Across the state, many public and private programs work for the well-being of children and families. These community programs offer a wide range of services that focus on parenting skills and responsibilities. The Department provides services to many of the same families served by these community programs. The Department collaborates with community services programs to promote parental responsibility, bringing all the programs to the same table to share critical information, focus on common needs, and reduce repetitive actions.

## **E. FRAUD AND ABUSE**

The Department has established and enforces standards and procedures concerning nepotism, conflicts of interest among individuals responsible for the administration and supervision of the state program, kickbacks, and the use of political patronage.

TAFI incorporates family penalties into the program rules. Work program penalties, including job quit, are progressive in nature. Penalties increasing for each noncompliance effectively stress the importance of work and the utilization of the 24-month lifetime limit. Penalty for the first non-compliance is one month or until compliance. Second non-compliance results in a period of three months or until compliance, and with a third non-compliance the result is a lifetime penalty.

Failure of a participant to report changes in family members, income, or resources without good cause results in progressive penalties of one month for the first incident and three months for any additional failures to report.

Intentional program violations (IPV) are full family sanctions. First violation results in a 12-month ineligibility period, second violation results in a 24-month ineligibility period and the third violation results in permanent disqualification from the TAFI program. Existing Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) IPV counters and disqualification periods are counted toward the Idaho TAFI program. The disqualified individual's needs are not included in the grant calculation, and the individual's income and resources do count towards the family's eligibility calculation.

Other TAFI program sanctions include:

- Non-cooperation with child support results in program ineligibility;
- Immunizations not being current for children results in program ineligibility;

- Non-establishment of paternity (after cooperation) within 12 months results in the TAFI benefit being reduced by one half;
- Applicants with a job quit within the last 60 days are ineligible for TAFI benefits for 90 days from the date of the job quit;
- Children not attending school results in a grant reduction of \$50.00 per month per child non-attending.

When the Department determines good cause for the participant's actions, the penalty will not be imposed. Good cause is determined by whether the conduct would be that of a reasonably prudent person in the same or similar circumstances. If an adult household member is disqualified for failure to cooperate with the required substance abuse screening, assessment, and treatment, penalty periods do not count toward the 24-month limit.

## **F. PLAN AMENDMENTS**

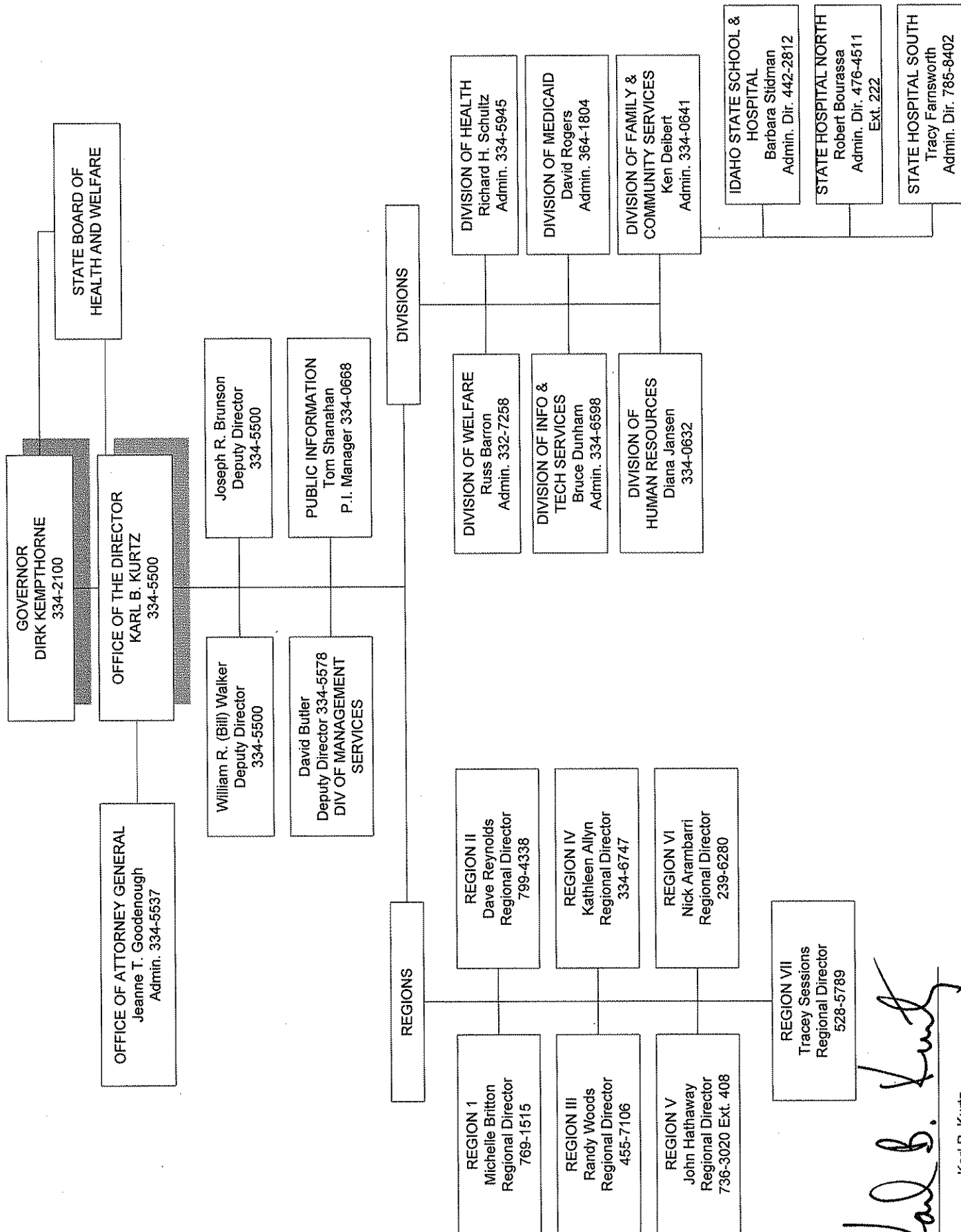
Within 30 days after adopting new procedures, the state will submit a plan amendment and notify the secretary of the amendment.

## **G. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF STATE PLAN SUMMARY**

The State of Idaho shall make available to the public a summary of any plan or plan amendment section.

## **Appendix A: Organizational Chart**

# IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE



*Karl B. Kurtz*



## Appendix B: State Plan Certifications

The State of Idaho operates the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; to end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage; to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

This program is known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

The Executive Officer of the State is Dirk Kempthorne, Governor

In administering and operating a program that provides Temporary Assistance for Needy Families with minor children under title IV-A of the Social Security Act,

1a. I certify that the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare is the agency responsible for administering the program, and the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare is the agency responsible for supervising the program;

1b. I assure that local governments and private sector organizations:

(I) have been consulted regarding the plan and design of welfare services in the State so that services are provided in a manner appropriate to local populations; and

(II) have had at least 45 days to submit comments on the plan and the design of such services.

2. During the fiscal year, the State will operate a Child Support Enforcement program under the State plan approved under part D.

3. During the fiscal year, the Department of Health and Welfare operates a Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program in accordance with part E, and takes all necessary actions to ensure that children receiving assistance are eligible for medical assistance under the State plan under title XIX.

4. The State will provide each member of an Indian tribe, who is domiciled in the State and is not eligible for assistance under a Tribal Family Assistance plan approved under Section 412, with equitable access to assistance under the State program funded under this part attributable to funds provided by the Federal Government.

5. The State has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to ensure against program fraud and abuse, including standards and procedures concerning nepotism, conflicts of interest among individuals responsible for the administration and supervision of the State program, kickbacks, and the use of political patronage.

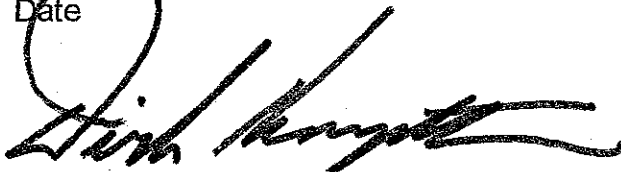
## OPTIONAL CERTIFICATION

[x] I also certify the State has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to:

- (1) Screen and identify individuals receiving assistance under this part with a history of domestic violence while maintaining the confidentiality of such individuals;
- (2) Refer such individuals to counseling and supportive services; and
- (3) Waive, pursuant to a determination of good cause, other program requirements such as time limits (for as long as necessary) for individuals receiving assistance, residency requirements, child support cooperation requirements, and family cap provisions, in case where compliance with such requirements would make it more difficult for individuals receiving assistance under this part to escape domestic violence or would unfairly penalize such individuals who are or have been victimized by such violence, or individuals who are at risk of further domestic violence.

CERTIFIED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE STATE:

2/1/06  
Date



DIRK KEMPTHORNE, GOVERNOR

## Appendix C: Funding

Section 403(a)(1)(A) provides that each eligible State shall be entitled to receive for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2008, a grant in an amount equal to the State family assistance grant as defined in section 403(a)(1)(B).

### I. Payments to Agency Administering the TANF Program

Payments for the TANF program will be made to the organization managing the AFDC/JOBS programs as of August 22, 1996, unless the State indicates that the TANF administering agency is changed. If a change is made, describe the name, address and EIN number of the new organization.

### II. State Payments for TANF Program

Section 405 requires that grants be paid to States in quarterly installments, based on State estimates. The State's estimate for each quarter of the fiscal year by percentage is:

For FY 2006 and Future Years			
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
25% or \$10,102,650	25% or \$10,102,650	25% or \$10,102,650	25% or \$10,102,650

For FY 2006, States should indicate below the percentage of TANF funds requested for only those quarters in which they plan to operate the program.

For FY 2006			
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
25% or \$10,102,650	25% or \$10,102,650	25% or \$10,102,650	25% or \$10,102,650

### III. Changes and Inquiries

If a State determines that these estimates require changes, a letter indicating the change in percentages should be sent to your ACF Regional Office and to ACF's Central Office. The Central Office address is:

The Administration for Children and Families  
The Office of Program Support  
The Division of Grants Management  
6th Floor, Aerospace Building  
370 L'Enfant Promenade  
Washington, D.C. 20447